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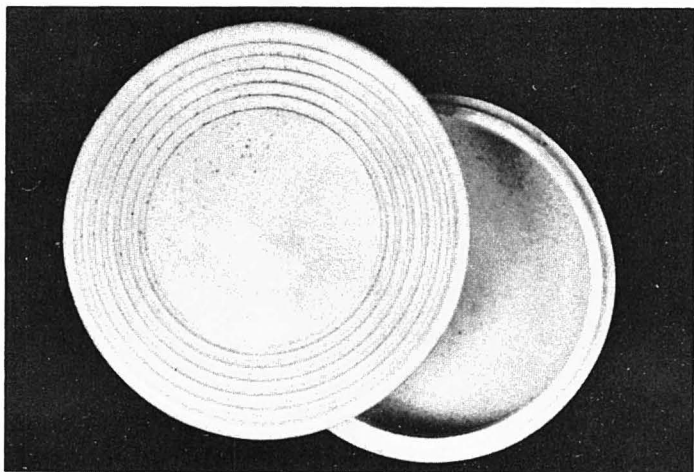
Fall, 1977

THE UNRULY BATAVIA KILL AND THE SOPER SOAP BOX FACTORY

Much of the history of the small manufacturing industries of the Catskills has been lost. Occasionally an old account book or odd bits of manuscript material come to the researcher's attention. Such is the case with the wood turning mill operated by Mr. Soper on the Batavia Kill at Windham before the Civil War.

The use of the Batavia Kill site for this small factory commenced in 1839 when Jehiel and Hannah Tuttle, for the sum of one hundred dollars, leased to Jared F. Matthews one-quarter acre of land and certain water rights in the town of Windham. The site was a short distance across the Batavia Kill which supplied the power; access to the mill led down a lane from the Windham Turnpike, across a bridge south of the dwelling house of the Tuttle, near the barn and blacksmith shop of Levi H. Alden. The lease also gave Jared Matthews the right to maintain a dam but not to plow the land adjacent to it—a lease valid as long as the site was used for water privileges.

Jared and Elbert Matthews were among the earliest business entrepreneurs of Windham Village, manufacturing buttons, shaving boxes and combs of native wood. On March 19, 1845, the Matthews lease was transferred to John Soper who commenced the operation of a turning mill for the manufacture of lather shaving boxes.



Soap Box from Windham Manufactory

A.J. Gambino, Photo

During the next several years John Soper built up a prosperous business. He was later to testify in court
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THREE WILLS AND SUSANNAH BRONCK

Leonard Bronck (1752-1828) has so completely overshadowed both his forebears and descendants in this county, that he has received the major attention of Bronck historians. It is the intent of this JOURNAL to occasionally focus the reader's attention on other individuals who were, either by birth or marriage, closely associated with the Bronck Homestead. The first to be selected is Susannah Hoghtaling Bronck (? -1814), the second wife of Jan Leedert Bronck (1723-1797).

—The Editor

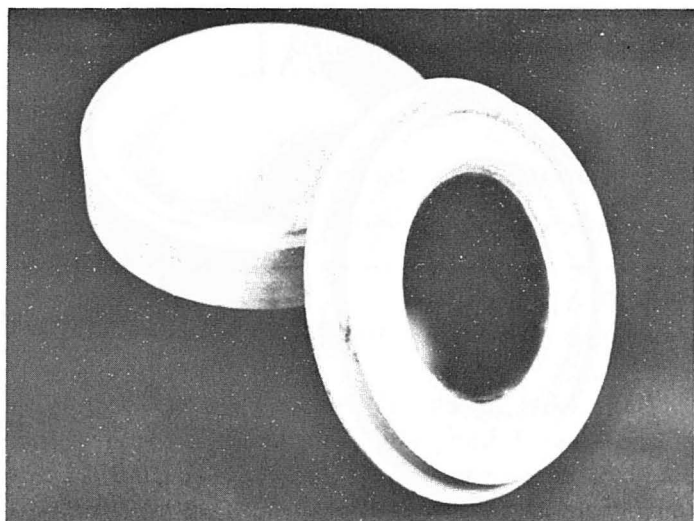
The generous treatment provided Susannah under the terms of her father, Hendrick's will of February 17, 1777, as well as that of her husband, Jan Leedert Bronck, left her a wealthy widow. She never succumbed to the attractions of another marriage, but rather conserved her real and personal property, dying in the year 1814 "well off."

Jan Leedert Bronck had found his first bride, Elsie Van Buren, across the river at Kinderhook. Judge Leonard Bronck was the only child of that marriage. After Elsie's death, Jan married a second time, choosing a local woman, Susannah Hoghtaling.

Susannah had grown up in Coxsackie, one of five surviving children of Hendrick and Esther Hoghtaling. The other siblings were Thomas, Coenradt, Catharine (Mrs. Albert VanDerzee), and Esther (Mrs. Jacobus Lagransie). Her father had accumulated a substantial property, which, after providing for his wife, Esther, was divided among the children. Susannah, under the terms of Hendrick's will of February 17, 1777, was eventually to receive 100 pounds and the negro Saar (Sarah).

The marriage of Susannah and Jan Leedert Bronck was a harmonious one; the remarriage of his father was a situation readily accepted by Leonard Bronck. Toward the end of his father's life, Leonard took over the operation of the Bronck Homestead and other properties, establishing his family in the brick house of 1738. Susannah and Jan Leedert continued to reside in the stone house of 1663 with its seventeenth century wing.

The terms of Jan Leedert's will were generous to his second wife. In lieu of her dower rights to his
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Soap Box Showing Mirror Insert

A.J.Gambino, Photo

that his shop brought in a substantial profit of four dollars the day. His production amounted to a gross and a half of boxes daily, as orders came in. In addition to the turning mill, he operated a finishing shop adjacent to the Windham Turnpike where three of his girls inserted small looking glasses in the covers of the boxes.

All went well until the heavy spring freshet of 1857 took out part of the south side of the dam and cut a new creek channel, rendering the old bridge crossing useless. The Batavia Kill has had a history of such destructive rampages. A bridge was constructed across the new channel by Philo S. Lake and his crew of five helpers, in a matter of fourteen days. In addition to providing a crossing for Mr. Soper and his hired help, it also gave access to thirty or more acres of flat land which had been part of the estate of General Tuttle.

Ephraim Bump, an adjacent property owner, was much disturbed at the placement of the bridge piers, alleging damage to his land from the redirected force of the water. Additionally, he was unwilling to grant John Soper a right-of-way across the new bridge to the turning mill.

The issue reached the courts of law, requiring the testimony of such third-party witnesses as Philo S. Lake, Joel Osborn, Alfonso Cobb, Wilson Howard and Solomon Christian. Both Soper and Bump sought to prove financial loss. The weight of the evidence brought in a jury verdict in favor of the plaintiff, John Soper, with damages set at six cents (nominal) and six cents costs.

Ephraim Bump refused to abide by the jury verdict and continued to disrupt Soper's use of the right-of-way. John Soper again appealed to the court and in a second trial, on February 20, 1862, was awarded more substantial damages of fifty-five dollars and costs.

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HOME TOUR NETS \$2,342.21 FOR CONSERVATION OF MUSEUM PAINTINGS

One of the most successful "one-day" fund-raising events ever held by the Greene County Historical Society was the "Old Homes" Tour in June. Perfect weather, excellent publicity and detailed planning by the committee attracted near capacity attendance.

From 10 a.m. until eventide, visitors drove to the nine houses and the Bronck Museum in the townships of New Baltimore, Coxsackie, and Athens, to study architecture, landscaping and interior furnishings. Special events included colonial dancing and Recorder music.

President Rubén García, in letters of appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Peters, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ackerman, Mr. and Mrs. James Warren, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Warren, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Beecher, Mr. Thomas Greene, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fay, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fox and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Hallenbeck, stressed the fact that the successful fund-raising event was the result of the willingness of these Friends of the Museum to open their homes to the public. Registration records indicate the "Home Tour" attracted individuals from a wide geographical area, many from outside the county. The home owners praised the visitors as a most cooperative group of individuals, following tour directions in the brochure and otherwise making it a mutually profitable day.

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Frequent requests arrive for permission to reproduce views of the Bronck Houses and barns in planned publications. The latest include Mary Mix Foley's volume on American houses, Wilson L. Wells's *Barns in the U.S.A.*, Charles Scribner's Sons for Marshall B. Davidson's *A Pictorial History*, the National Geographic Society for its book *America's Historylands*, and Stephen M. Straight's text on interesting barns in the United States. The library staff attempts to secure one copy of each publication in which the Bronck Homestead is mentioned or illustrated. The number has now grown to over 20.

THREE WILLS OF SUSANNAH BRONK

(continued from page 1)

estate, she received a legacy of 500 pounds to be paid in installments, the negro slave, Sarah, and Sarah's children, as well as livestock and household furnishings. The livestock was specified to be four milch cows, two steers, one mare, five sheep and one sow. All wearing apparel, beds and other household furniture brought with her at the time of her marriage were confirmed to her. They were to be replaced at her request if she judged them to be badly worn. She did ask for and received from the estate a new pair of bed curtains, certainly a modest request.

For a residence, Susannah was provided with the south part of the Bronck homestead (house of 1663) as long as she remained a widow.

In this house on the Bronck Farm, Susannah lived for more than a decade, although the growing family of her stepson, Leonard, must have made for crowded living quarters. Then in the year 1808, Susannah decided to purchase from John Out 55 acres of land in the Loonenburgh Patent in the township of Coxsackie, as well as a necessary woodlot located in the Roseboom Patent. Her next step was to contract for the building of a "frame and block" house and barn on her land purchase.

From that time until a few weeks before her death, Susannah resided in her new house, faithfully attended by her negroes, Sarah, and Sarah's sons, Pomp and Jacob. She did not engage in extensive farming but rather rented out her land to others. Judge Leonard Bronk arranged to pasture the major portion of the livestock with his own. Richard Barker grazed her 12 sheep for a yearly fee of one pound of wool per head.

The relationship between Judge Leonard Bronk and his stepmother continued to be a cordial one. As executor of his father's will, submitted to Abraham G. Lansing, Surrogate of Albany County, on January 22, 1794, Leonard paid Susannah 100 pounds within six weeks, 200 pounds within the first year, and the remainder by the deadline specified. For the last five weeks of her life, Susannah was nursed at the Bronck Homestead. In that illness she was attended by Doctors Schepmoes and Wells.

The funeral of Susannah was an elaborate one and the surviving bills reveal some of the burial customs of the time. Isaac Spoor was hired to personally call at the houses of relatives and friends to invite them to the funeral service. For this he was paid three dollars. Simeon Fitch, local merchant, provided the funeral guests with five gallons of wine, three gallons of rum, ten large papers of tobacco and two dozen clay pipes—all at a cost of seven pounds, seventeen shillings. Lemuel Williams made the coffin for eight dollars.

Susannah's lack of education is indicated by the

use of "X" in lieu of her signature on her will dated October 11, 1809. John L. Bronk (the lawyer and son of Judge Leonard Bronk), John Van Ness, and Hendrick Vanderzee were the executors; John Van Ness of Columbia County preferring not to serve in that capacity. The will provides a wealth of genealogical information.

Foremost, Susannah manumitted and gave freedom to her slaves Sarah, Jacob, Pomp, Maria and Phillis. Sarah was left life tenancy of the 55-acre farm, together with furniture, soap, candles and other supplies already in her possession. Additionally she was provided with oxen, cows, pigs, sheep and a horse. After Sarah's death, the real property was to go to her sons, Jacob and Pomp. One stipulation required Sarah to provide a home for servant Maria.

One hundred pounds was left to her brother, Thomas Houghtaling; the children of her brother, Coenradt, namely John, Henry, Hester and Garrett each received fifty pounds. That later amount as well as silver plate and household furnishings were willed to her sister, Hester Lagransie's children—Eve Slingerlandt, wife of Henry, and Hester Lagransie, wife of Jacobus. The three sons of Albert VanDerzee referred to as nephews, were to share in all money not otherwise specifically willed.

As a recognition to her stepson's children—Catharine Van Dyck, John L. Bronk and Robert Bronk, each received fifty pounds. Susannah Conyne (wife of Philip P. Conyne) and Leonard Bronk, Jr., and the children of their sister, Elsie Sickles (Sickles) also received a like amount.

The inventory of Susannah's personal estate was certified to by Catharine Van Dyck (wife of lawyer Abraham) and Eve Slingerland, on August 4, 1814. In addition to notes and bonds owed her by such individuals as Nicholas and Samuel Powell and Anthony Van Bergen, the value of her jewelry and other effects totaled a substantial amount. The inventory makes fascinating reading. Susannah obviously enjoyed the good life of the wealthier of the township. Her wardrobe was an extensive one in a time when clothing was considered one of the more important assets of an estate and was frequently willed to surviving relatives or friends.

The most valuable items in her estate, other than securities, were her five beds, bedding, pillows, bolsters, pillowcases, etc., in the amount of \$329.50. Five gold rings, 2 pair of gold earrings, a bone ring, silver shoe buckles, a silver thimble, silver snuff box and miscellaneous rings comprised her collection of jewelry. For entertainment, Susannah had acquired a tea board and bread basket, 1½ dozen tea cups and saucers, 28 silver spoons, silver teapot and sugar tongs, 2 silver salt cellars, a silver cup and ten table cloths.

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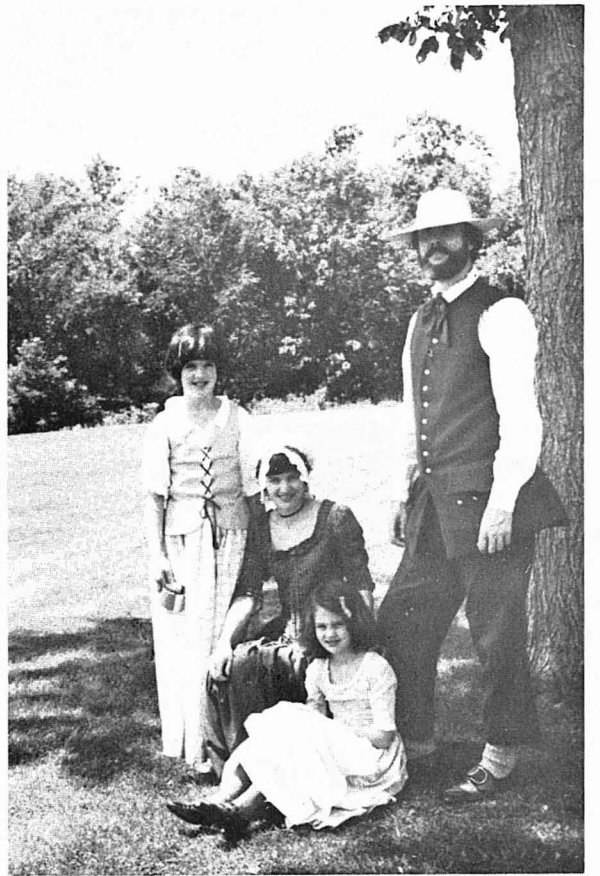
**BRIGADE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
DETACHMENTS AT BRONCK MUSEUM
ENCAMPMENT ON ANNUAL MEETING DAY**

Visitors to Bronck Museum on June 4 were privileged to observe authentic reenactments of military life as experienced by the British and American troops during the Revolutionary War. Five detachments of

this nationally recognized historical society, namely, Captain Nicholas's Continental Marines, the Corps of Light Infantry (Continental Line), the Canadian Regiment (Congresses' Own), the 13th Regiment of Albany County Militia, and the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, pitched camps, drilled, marched, and skirmished.

These photographs are from the camera of Anthony J. Gambino of New Baltimore.





EDUCATION IN THE NORTHERN CATSKILLS —Ashland's Two Institutes (Part II)

Catalogues and other printed promotional material serve to provide a useful skeletal framework for articles relating to Ashland's institutions of higher learning. Their study reveals background information relating to curricula, faculty, student body, as well as operating procedure. To interpret this body of source material in the light of the personal experiences of students and faculty members, is a more difficult task. Yet it is this latter effort which explains these Institutes, after the passage of more than a century, in more human terms.

Fortunately, in recent months, two major sources of such material have surfaced. Early in 1977, Mrs. Winifred Fiero of Catskill donated to this Society an extensive collection of letters written to and between the brothers James Harvey and William Myer Van Gelder. James was one of the Institute's more promising students who subsequently matriculated at Yale. William Myer was associated with the Institutes, first as a student and later as Professor of Painting and Drawing. The letters do much to reveal the strengths and weaknesses of the seminaries' operations.

A second primary source of information is to be found in the Borthwick family manuscript collection. Mr. Calvin S. Borthwick of Glen Ridge, New Jersey, has permanently deposited a "four-generation" accumulation of family papers, including his grandfather's diary which includes entries while Calvin Borthwick was enrolled as a student at the Ashland Institute.

—The Editor

The Institute is "situated on the great central turnpike, about thirty miles west of Catskill and is thus within five hours' drive of the Hudson River Railroad. Located in the midst of the Catskills and surrounded by the most picturesque and sublime scenery, it not only secures to students everything necessary for the promotion of physical health and vigor, but spreads before them an ever changing panorama of grandeur and beauty which can hardly fail to expand and ennoble the mind." It is obvious to the reader that the Ashland Collegiate Institute administration sought to treat Ashland's more isolated location in positive terms.

By 1860, the catalogue was even more forceful in stressing the advantages of the rural atmosphere, "sufficiently retired from the great thoroughfares (where) the student is removed beyond contact with those temptations incident to more public places, which tend to dissipate the mind and allure from the paths of virtue." Such statements were reassuring to parents whose sons and daughters were to attend boarding school, frequently away from home for the first time.

During its several years of existence, Ashland never recruited a full student body. Built to accommodate 400 students, it generally averaged 50% capacity. Part of the unused space was converted to staff living quarters. The catalogue of 1858 lists 117 students while that of 1860 lists 218. The gentlemen far outnumbered the ladies, although the latter increased from 25% of the total enrollment in 1858 to 36% in 1860. Had the Institute survived to function during the Civil War, it certainly would have had to face a serious decline in male enrollment. The Hudson River Institute at Claverack faced that problem by offering military drill and cadet status.

An important recruitment device used by the Ashland Institute was the policy of offering reduced tuition charges for the children of the clergy or to those preparing to become teachers. Several of the Van Gelder friends were in the latter category. The Greene County Teachers' Institute was encouraged to utilize the building for its meetings and training sessions and occasionally did so.

Faculty recruitment and retention were equal problems of importance to the administrations. Salaries were low, although the availability of living quarters and dining room facilities were an added inducement. The Hedding Literary Institute commenced operations with an instructional and administrative staff of eleven. Like all private colleges, the faculty were frequently called upon to serve in more than one capacity—they were sent out between terms to recruit new students. Professor Murphy of the Mathematics Department was one such individual who, on a trip to Ellenville in the spring of 1860, stayed at former student David H. Fuller's home and managed to sign up three scholars. M. S. Partridge acted as a teacher of commerce and penmanship, while also serving as Registrar.

Occasionally the administration found it necessary to use student assistants or employ former students. C. E. Hollenbeck taught commercial subjects while enrolled for advanced courses. William Myer Van Gelder, a former student, enlisted the assistance of his brother, James, in negotiating for a teaching position on the Art Department's staff. For the experience, he offered to come "for expenses." This arrangement was satisfactory to both sides and his name appears on the promotional literature in 1859 as the *only* Professor of Painting and Drawing.

Many students enrolled in preparatory courses which would enable them to meet the admission standards of four-year liberal arts colleges and theological seminaries; some enrolled for terminal education for employment in the commercial world, or in surveying and Civil Engineering; others entered for training in the fine arts—music, painting and drawing; while

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EDUCATION IN THE NORTHERN CATSKILLS

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still others came for teacher preparation to enable them to handle one-room rural schools.

Tuition gradually increased from \$46.50 the session of 22 weeks to \$65. This included room, board, washing and basic instruction in the common English branches. Scholars electing specialized courses were subject to extra charges ranging from a low of one dollar the quarter for advanced English to a high of fifteen dollars for music lessons. The Musical Academy section of the Institute had a higher basic tuition rate. Parents paying today's college "extra" fees might note Ashland's charge of a quarterly fee of one dollar for the use of the library and the same for the gymnasium.

Families did their best to finance their sons and daughters to this schooling, but many came from areas where incomes were limited. Promissory notes were one means of paying tuition bills when due. James and William Van Gelder raised some tuition money by operating a family farm on shares. At times one would be "in school" while the other was working. It was not uncommon to take a semester off to teach a rural school. Families, like the Van Gelders, who anticipated income, frequently had to wait for their payments. In a letter from William to his brother, James, written on January 14, 1859, the former states "We have taken the ship timber to Athens (to the shipyard) but we cannot get any money till March." Some students earned money by selling books and magazine subscriptions. Stillman Shaffer was successful in selling 23 books for 3 shillings each early in one term.

Student life at the Institutes was subject to numerous rules, some of which were irksome to the male students. More than one scholar was summarily dismissed. The 1858 catalogue states "The system of discipline is rigid, yet mild and parental. No student will be retained in the Institution who shall be found, after a fair trial, unwilling to yield a cheerful and prompt obedience to all such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary for the good order of the establishment." And on the final page we find "As this is an EDUCATIONAL and not a REFORMATORY Institution, parents are requested not to put the Principals to the trouble of returning the incorrigible, which they will find themselves bound to do, as soon as their character is discovered."

Unfortunately, such stress on proper deportment did not resolve this vexatious problem. In the 1860 catalogue, 2½ pages were devoted to explicit rules covering student behavior, study habits, cleanliness of rooms, unauthorized absences and the use of a penalty system. Failure to comply with the regulations earned demerits; an accumulation of ten brought a private reprimand; twenty, a public reproof; thirty, expulsion. The moral tone of the Institute was enhanced by

H E D D I N G

Literary Institute,

REV. T. B. PEARSON, A. M., PRINCIPAL.

Circumstances beyond control prevented the completion of the entire building of the Institute before the time specified for the opening, but *now*, all that is needful to promote the comfort or aid the progress of the student, is in readiness.

Advertizing Flyer (1st section) 1855

prohibiting boisterous actions, whistling or "rough housing." No games of chance, nor the use of gun powder, nor smoking or chewing tobacco in the building, was tolerated. Swimming was forbidden except for special permission. The sexes were housed on separate floors and communication was permitted only in the presence of chaperons.

Religious training of students was provided by compulsory attendance at morning and evening worship in the Institute chapel. On Sundays, the faculty, their families, as well as the student body, attended divine services in either the village's Presbyterian or Methodist Churches. A local Preachers' Association was organized in connection with the Institute, the object of which was to provide male students contemplating ministerial careers, with practical pulpit experience—sermon composition and delivery.

Revival meetings of the camp type were held in the Ashland-Prattsville vicinities and influenced students. Bartholomew Mulligan, writing from Palenville on March 12, 1860, mentions the revival of religion then in progress at Ashland Seminary and the power of it felt by his friend, J. H. Botchford.

A friendly relationship between "town and gown" developed. In addition to participating in church services, students went to donation parties to benefit local clergy. The surrounding villagers were invited to attend Institute entertainments and frequently did. Calvin Borthwick, prior to his enrollment as a student, notes in his diary for January 17, 1860, "This P.M. Eunice, Orlando, Peter and Kate Richtmyer and myself went to Ashland to attend a concert at the Collegiate Institute this evening and a good one it was, both vocal and instrumental." Calvin S. Borthwick notes that at the time, his grandfather lived on the family farm near West Conesville, now engulfed by the Schoharie Reservoir. Such an evening's entertainment required a trip of more than twelve miles each way by either wagon or sleigh.

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EDUCATION IN THE NORTHERN CATSKILLS

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Letters were the usual morale factor. Students kept their families informed of educational progress, the missives being left in the Steward's office for posting. Occasionally they wrote home indicating disappointment and homesickness at the nonreceipt of news; the need for funds was also a matter of content. Former students maintained friendships by letter writing. In the large Van Gelder collection are many with inquiries concerning faculty, friends, the literary societies, as well as recollections of pleasant events in their Institute years.

In a simpler era, accommodations for students were Spartan by today's standards. Sleeping and studying rooms at the Ashland Collegiate Institute were not much improved over the Hedding years. Normally two students were housed together, although private rooms were available at extra cost. Furniture was restricted to the bare necessities. Students desiring warm floors were expected to bring ten yards of carpeting. The more desirable rooms were quickly engaged as revealed in J. B. Parker's letter of January 9, 1856, in which he states "According to agreement I have done the best I could for you and also write you accordingly. There are no large rooms vacant and the best Mr. Pearson (Principal) can do for you is you can have the room next to the one you occupied last quarter. We will reserve it for you until Friday noon. You will therefore answer this by return mail."

Water was piped from springs to each floor of the building; each student was expected to supply his own wash bowl and pitcher. Additionally, he was responsible for his own mirror, lights, candlestick, broom and towels. For those who wanted the luxury of heated rooms, stoves were available on a rental basis. For most, however, heat came from the stoves set up in the hallways. Mrs. Ruth E. Powell reports a minor family disagreement when her grandfather, Henry Barber Whitcomb, purchased a small kerosene lamp with blue bowl and white base. His father, Israel, was greatly annoyed and wanted to know if homemade candles weren't good enough—and how was he going to pay for the oil? Henry maintained he needed the better light from a lamp for study purposes at the Institute and would earn the extra cost by cutting wood for a neighbor.

Some requirements seem strange today but made sense for those times when hard-heeled boots were worn—each student was required to wear slippers during the study hours. To assist in laundering, clothing and towels had to be marked with the names of the owners, with similar markings on trunks, hair and shoe brushes, shoe blackening, umbrellas, slippers and Bibles.

Faculty turnover continued to plague the administration—partially due to internal friction. Three princi-

pals rapidly succeeded one another, although Henry J. Fox lasted the longest and was in command at the time of the fire. At last three staff members, namely Reverend Henry J. Fox, Reverend Edward Stratton and Reverend Charles H. Halloway held Masters of Arts degrees which gave them higher faculty status. Ill feeling developed between Professors Howard (Ancient Languages) and Murphy (Mathematics). James H. Van Gelder at Yale was questioned as to the truthfulness of the rumor, allegedly spread by Professor Murphy, that James was inadequately prepared for college Greek.

Preceptress Sarah Smith, whose husband died while the family resided in Ashland, felt she had reason to complain of the shabby financial treatment she received from the Institute's administration. In after years she and her daughter operated a successful school at Haverstraw. In writing to James Van Gelder, she went into details concerning her conflict with Principal Fox, the helpful assistance provided by the students at her time of crisis, and her need to appeal to the New York Conference. In 1862 she wrote again "How Mr. Fox dealt with me in relation to money matters—the Treasurer of the New York Conference obliged him to pay me back forty dollars with interest for the time he kept it."

Yet Principal Fox was not without popularity. Theodore Bird, in a letter from Ashland, requests James Van Gelder to write a few lines to use upon the presentation of a gift to Mr. Fox. He reports the ladies have raised \$32 from students thus far and have had \$24 from the city from Miss Holt and others who had been students.

No educational institution is ever completely free from friction among the staff and the student body; Ashland was no exception. Students frequently debated the advantages of transferring to other Institutes. Some students such as C. E. Hollenbeck of Preston Hollow complained and wrote "the dissatisfaction is spreading. Such fellows as Hoyt and Coons complain and threaten to leave. A new professor has already disciplined me!"

The end of each term called for a public exhibition of students' progress. Orations, the reading of compositions, and musical performances were all included. Former students of the Philomanthic League (Literary Society) wrote to James Van Gelder promising compositions for that purpose. In an 1859 letter Stillman Shaffer of Kiskatom mentions, "Hear you are getting ready for an exhibition at the end of the term."

Unlike today's colleges, schedules for vacations were set for the months of April and October. At those times students and faculty exchanged farewells, promising to correspond; most were uncertain they would ever meet again for another semester at Ashland.

[To be continued]

PEOPLE AND EVENTS MAKE "BUSY" BRONCK MUSEUM SEASON

Professor Michael Zadro, the Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts, State University at New Paltz, has undertaken a study of the musical interests of Hudson River School artists. He recently came to Bronck Museum for an examination of Thomas Cole's musical instruments in the Florence Cole Vincent collection. We anticipate an informative article for later JOURNAL publication.

Touring the mid-Hudson Valley by bus, a contingent of Winterthur Museum personnel spent two hours examining the Bronck Houses and the collections. Mr. Joseph W. Hammond, Assistant in Museum Education, later wrote . . . "A stop there was important so that the development of the North European building style could be seen as reflected in one structural complex, and within the social context of a single family. It was also the only Lowlands type house that we stopped at, although we did drive by the Van Alen House on Friday."

Friends of Olana, at their annual meeting in Church's Castle on Mt. Merino, had the opportunity to study selected works of art and some personal effects of Thomas Cole. The exhibit, set up in the long corridor to the studio wing by Site Director, Linda McLean, drew heavily from the Florence Cole Vincent Memorial Collection at Bronck House and from the private family collection of Edith Cole Silberstein. This intermuseum exchange is highly desirable.

The editors of House Beautiful's *COLONIAL HOMES* magazine plan to include photographs of the Bronck House in a planned article on the Dutch Houses of the Hudson Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Preben Ramløvs have been spending a second summer in New York doing research on Jonas Bronck. Several society archival collections are being examined. They were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Beecher while working at Bronck House. New discoveries relating to Jonas Bronck are becoming known.

The Pieter Bronck Trading Post, under the direction of Kay Newbury, is busy handling a large stock of new merchandise from the Baumann estate and other donees. Never certain when buyers will appear, the faithful staffing by volunteers keeps the shop open afternoons. A wide choice of reading matter is available this season from the William White, Sr., family, the Baumann estate, and from other friends of the museum. Come and browse—book prices are very reasonable.

Mrs. Shelby Kriele of Purling has been appointed Associate Curator of the Bronck Museum collections. During the summer season she is to be found classifying, preparing card records, and permanently registering new additions, a very necessary part of the "behind the scenes" operation.

Five flint Ashburton goblets are a memorial to the late Edna Mae Baumann of Coxsackie. Mrs. Baumann was descended from the Van Bergens of this area and lived in the Dr. Ely house on Ely Street, Coxsackie. The goblets are a very desirable addition to the museum's glass collection.

Mrs. Marion Britt of Kiskatom and Miss Roberta Everett of Catskill are once again helping at the Vedder Library during the summer months. Each year sees progress being made in the organization of the research material, a collection which continues to expand at a rapid pace.

The National Union Catalogue, The Library of Congress, has requested up-to-date listings for the manuscript collections in the Vedder Library. The finalized registration forms have been mailed to Washington.

Genealogical inquiries continue to flow in to the Vedder Research Library. It is the Society's policy to answer short inquiries but not to conduct extensive genealogical research. Stamped, self-addressed envelopes are appreciated. The Vedder Library holdings are open to both members and nonmembers, although we do point out that money to finance the library comes from the dues and activities of its members; it is not tax supported.

Mrs. Audrey Dodes writes from Concord, Michigan relating to Jacob Whitcomb and Constant Bushnell whose descendants reached Michigan during the first quarter of the 19th century.

Luther Van Loan, township of Athens in the 1850's, is the subject of an inquiry from Barbara J. Koeller of Memphis, Tennessee. His mother was Hannah, listed in the 1850 census as Head of Family. Brothers were Caspar, a blacksmith; John and William.

Obituary clippings of older Greene County residents have been supplied for the genealogical files through the thoughtfulness of Mrs. Mildred Cameron of Coxsackie. She has been in correspondence with Mrs. Horace W. Palmer whose husband compiled the very useful *Palmers in America* volume.

Kenneth Egbertson of New Jersey, a faithful user of the Vedder Library, reports a productive week in the Cortland area. The Egbertsons were part of a mass migration of Greene County families who were settlers of the Town of Preble in the Bounty Land Tracts. "Three Egbertson families moved to Preble and purchased land about 1808 . . . The Cortland files contain many names that I have seen in the Greene County records. One section of Preble was called Dutch Street showing how many of Dutch descent lived there. I saw a small family burial ground that the local people referred to as the Van Bergen or Van Bergen—Egbertson cemetery."

THREE WILLS AND SUSANNAH BRONK

(continued from page 3)

Everyday utensils included a pewter teapot, a tureen, 18 china and earthenware bowls, 2 earthen pitchers, 2 earthen mugs, 5 wooden bowls, 21 pewter plates, 10 pewter dishes, 2 pewter basins, and 1 set of knives and forks.

Susannah's wardrobe consisted of a gown pattern, 41 shifts, 15 aprons, 15 pockets, petticoats, short gowns, 35 caps, miscellaneous handkerchiefs and shawls, 35 pair of stockings, 6 cloaks, numerous gowns, 5 pairs of gloves, linen, cambric and lace, and pairs of shoes.

Besides the beds, her house was furnished with tables, looking glass, trunk and chests, a large cherry cupboard, and chairs. Bed and window curtains were utilized.

None of the furnishings and silver now in the Bronck family collection at the museum belonged to Susannah, that personal property being distributed to her nieces. In summary we might fairly state that Susannah Bronck made a good adjustment within the Bronck family circle; those members in turn accepting her without any visible signs of resentment as a "step-mother".

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Greene County Historical Society
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The passing of two regional residents whose families were important in Greene County's historical development, are mentioned. Dr. Orin Flint, veteran Delhi physician (1902-1976), chief of the Medical Staff at O'Connor Hospital, Delhi, and catalyst for the promotion of many civic projects, was born at Athens, the son of Orin Queal and Emma (Kiltz) Flint, Sr. Dr. Flint's father was the first president of the Greene County Historical Society.

Last fall also saw the loss of Lovisa Vedder Smith (Mrs. T. Howard Smith) of Roxbury. She was born in Greene County at Leeds, educated locally, and although a resident of Roxbury, maintained a life-long interest in this Society and its museum. She was a direct descendant of Dr. and Mrs. Levi King of Cairo as well as the well-known Vedder family. A family journal maintained by Mrs. King, made available by Mrs. Smith, will be published in serial form in subsequent issues of this JOURNAL.

The early paper mills of Greene County are a matter of interest to Thomas L. Gravell of Delaware. He has requested research assistance.

The Daybook of a Coxsackie firm, believed to be that of King and Dickenson (1811-1812), is a bound manuscript volume recently acquired from Hope Farm Bookshop.

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